



# The Rail Gunner Monthly

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THE RAIL GUNNER MONTHLY

ISSUE 11

## Inside this issue

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Wolfpack assist Texas       | 3  |
| Stillhouse Hollow Triathlon | 4  |
| Walk to West Point          | 5  |
| "Boobie Brigade" fundraiser | 7  |
| Promotions                  | 11 |

## The Rail Gunner



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41st Fires Brigade

"Rail Gunners!!"



Photo by Spc. Dalinda Hanna, 41st Fires Brigade PAO

A Wolfpack Soldier checks the status of the radar during a live fire held at OP Maple, from July 11-16. Battery A, 26th Field Artillery Regiment (Target Acquisition Battery), assisted the 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment, in their training exercise for their upcoming deployment by targeting and tracking their artillery rounds.

## Wolfpack acquire targets

Story and photos by  
Spc. Dalinda Hanna  
41st Fires Brigade, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – With radar ready and radios online, the Soldiers of Battery A, 26th Field Artillery Regiment (Target Acquisition Battery), 41st Fires Brigade, conducted a live fire exercise with a Texas National Guard unit, from July 11 to 16.

The Wolfpack Soldiers endured the Texas heat tracking artillery that was shot to assist the 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment's upcoming deployment. They also conducted level one through six qualifications to certify their crewmembers for future operations.

Pfc. John Reichert, a fire finder radar operator for Bat. A, 26th FA

See RADAR on Page 3

# RAIL GUNNER 6 & 9 SEND



**Colonel  
William E. McRae  
Brigade Commander**

ment to excellence reflect the brigade's dedication to mission accomplishment. Thank you for your tireless efforts! You have definitely played an integral role in molding young cadets into the Army's future leaders.

For the first time in the Fort Hood's history, the All-Army Combatives Tournament was hosted at Fort Hood. We would like to take a moment to recognize the Soldiers who diligently trained to represent the Rail Gunners in this tournament. These warriors are winners who displayed expertise, bravery and talent throughout the competi-



**Command Sergeant Major  
Kelvin Hughes  
Brigade CSM**

Dear Rail Gunner Family:

We would like to thank the Rail Gunner Soldiers, staff and family members for everything that you continue to do while serving this great country, the Army, and the 41st Fires Brigade. Thank you all for all that you do. It is our pleasure to be a part of this Rail Gunner family!

On May 11th, 240 Rail Gunners deployed in support of the Cadet Summer Training Program at the United States Military Academy's at West Point, New York. We'd like to congratulate all the Soldiers and officers who returned from this mission on July 25 and August 13 on a job well done. Their professionalism, and commit-

ment to excellence reflect the brigade's dedication to mission accomplishment. Thank you for your tireless efforts! You have definitely played an integral role in molding young cadets into the Army's future leaders.

The end of summer is near, which signifies the start of a new year for the Rail Gunner children. The Killeen Independent School District's classes begin August 22. The first day of school is always an important milestone in our children's lives. Accordingly, all Rail Gunner parents are excused from work in order to escort their youngsters to school. We encourage all parents to support their children in all they do.

We will continue to strive for excellence in our upcoming

missions. There is nothing the Rail Gunner Family cannot accomplish together. Continue to work hard and uphold the standard!

**Rail Gunner Strong!**

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*RADAR cont. from Page 1*



Soldiers with the Battery A, 26th Field Artillery Regiment fuel up a generator during the live-fire exercise where the Wolfpack Soldiers assisted the Texas National Guard unit, 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment.

Regt., said it is good to support other units and get hands-on certification training.

"I enjoy helping out and making sure they hit their targets," said Reichert. "It is important to track the rockets because they need to know where the rounds hit and where they are going so they can track the enemy trajectory and send coordinates to return fire."

Spc. Kyle Stadtmueller, a radar operator for Bat. A, 26th FA Regt, said that the live fire exercise was good training because it helps to keep their skills sharp and mission ready.

"Going out to the field builds unit camaraderie and gets us certified, so we know that we are doing our job correctly and efficiently."

The hot Texas weather did

not stop the Wolfpack Soldiers from performing their tasks.

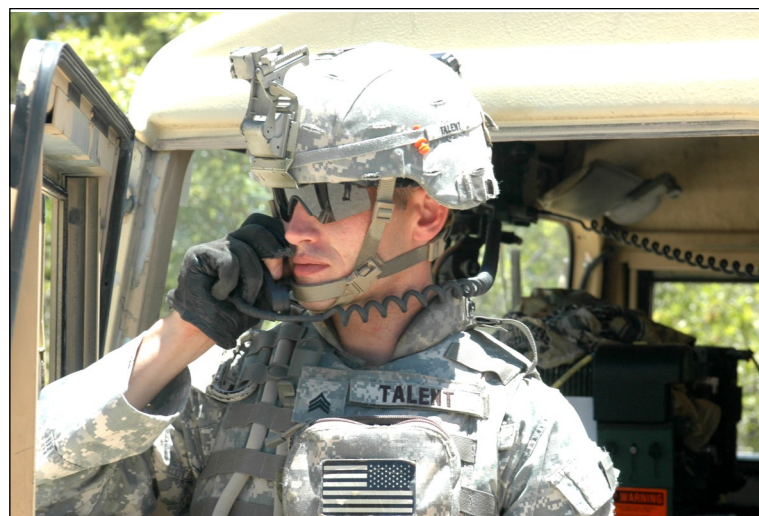
Sgt. Jamel Abdulaziz, a section chief for radar section one, said that enduring the heat is great practice for deployments.

"Practice makes perfect.

This is basically the temperature that we may have during deployments, so it's important to see how we perform in it," said Abdulaziz. "We have been drinking a lot of water, and keeping our electrolytes balanced. My Sol-



Pfc. Ethan Hendrick, a Field Artillery Firefinder for Battery A, 26th Field Artillery Regiment, coordinates with the firing site. The Wolfpack Soldiers assisted 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment by tracking their artillery rounds and conducted their level one through six certifications.



Sgt. Michael Talent, a Fire Support Specialist, conducts a status update during the live-fire. The Wolfpack Soldiers assisted 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment, in their upcoming deployment by targeting and tracking their artillery rounds.

diers and I have a lot of motivation to do well on this mission."

With enthusiastic and skilled Soldiers on the radar tracking artillery, 1-333rd FA Regt. is in good hands with the Wolfpack by their side.



# Rail Gunners: Swim, bike, run, finish

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson  
41st Fires Brigade, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas—Several officers from the 41st Fires Brigade jumped-off the start of their day with a little exercise as they competed in the Stillhouse Hollow Triathlon held Dana Peak Park, July 10.

The three Rail Gunner officers made their way to the start-line in anticipation of the horn signaling the start of the triathlon. The race consisted of a half-mile swim, a 15.5-mile bike ride, and a 3.01-mile run. The Stillhouse Hollow Triathlon was hosted by Simone Tucker, a

graduate student attending Mary Hardin Baylor for sports medicine.

Tucker, the race director, coordinated the race as an internship requirement. Nearly 100 competitors gathered to push their bodies to new physical limits or just prove to themselves that they could complete a triathlon.

“Everybody has different reasons to compete,” said Tucker who is also a certified running coach. “For me, there’s nothing like competing in a triathlon. It’s a great feeling to be able to say that I’ve completed all three events. The officers from the 41st

Fires Brigade were ready to test their physical readiness by taking on the triathlon.

“This triathlon was definitely a challenge for me,” said 2nd Lt. Ruth Acosta, Miami native, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, 41st Fires Bde. “I wanted to test my limits and try something new. At the start of the race, I thought, ‘What did I get myself into?’ but when that horn goes off, you can’t think about it and you just have to let your adrenaline take over.”

By the time the officers crossed the finish-line, they were proud of their accomplishment and their physical capabilities. Although each officer agreed that if Soldiers wanted to com-

pete for a sporting event like a triathlon, they would need more than unit physical fitness training.

“I trained for about a month,” said 1st Lt. Emily Vetter, headquarters and headquarters battery, 41st Fires Bde. “I should have taken at least two months to train. But, I’m still proud of myself for being able to make it all the way. Plus, this was my first triathlon.”

Vetter stated that she was afraid to swim in open-water like lakes and oceans, but she also said that if you want to be a competitor then you have to push yourself through any obstacle that comes your way.

After the three officers completed their first triathlon, they agreed on a little advice to help others preparing to take on a triathlon.

“Set reasonable goals and do the training that you need to do to reach those goals,” said Capt. Oggy Nash, Hilton Head Island, S.C. native, the fires control officer for HHB, 41st Fires Bde. “Don’t expect to be an ‘Ironman’ on your first triathlon. Just concentrate on your training, build on each phase, and work toward improving your times.”

By the end of the triathlon, the Rail Gunner officers were happy with their performances and proud of each other for making it through their first triathlon. After a quick stop for breakfast, the officers had the rest of the day to recover and prepare for Monday morning’s PT session.



1st Lt. Emily Vetter finishes off the 15.5-mile bike ride during the Stillhouse Hollow Triathlon held at Dana Peak. After the bike course, the competitors begin their three-mile run.



# Rail Gunner spouses Walk to West Point

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson  
41st Fires Brigade, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas—The spouses of several hundred Soldiers laced up their walking shoes and headed out on a mission that would take them all the way to New York and back.

The many supporting spouses and Family members of the Soldiers within the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment and all throughout the 41st Fires Brigade double knotted their shoes on May 10 to show their support by participating in the “Walk to West Point” event.

The Family members may not directly walk to New York, but they are planning to walk the equivalent distance to the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. as well as back to Fort Hood, which is approximately 3,490 miles.

More than 260 Rail Gunners came together as Task Force Strike and departed on a temporary assignment to train ching cadets at West Point. The temporary duty will continue to run until the middle of August.

The spouses meet up every Tuesday at the track around the Bronco Youth Center from 9-11 a.m. The Walk to West

Point is a combined effort where all the spouses and Family members who participate add their miles to their respective units’ totals. All the units throughout the brigade will combine their totals to reach the group’s overall goal.

After eight weeks of walking during high Central Texas temperatures and nearly 1,400 miles later, these determined Rail Gunner spouses found themselves crossing the borders of Pennsylvania. With the USMA being only 1,745 miles, the spouses have almost completed their first leg of the trip.

“The Walk to West Point is more than just about the miles,”



(from left to right) Rachel Dean, Family Readiness Support Advisor, Tammie Jefferies, mother to Sgt Timothy Jefferies, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, Jeana Jefferies, spouse, Stephanie Jewell, spouse of Pvt. Arthur Jewell, and Jennifer Hammer, spouse of Lt. Col. Brian Hammer, battalion commander for the 2nd Bat. 20th Field Artillery Regt. The spouses and family members, walk around the track at the Bronco Youth Center.



*WALK cont. from Page 5*

said Rachel Dean, the Family Readiness Support Advisor for the 2-20 FA Regt., 41st Fires Bde. "This becomes a great opportunity to bring the Families involved with the Task Force Strike mission in a more relaxed social setting, allowing them to get to know one another while working toward a common goal in support of the Soldiers who are TDY."

For one spouse, this is the first time she has been away from her husband since his enlistment in the Army.

"My husband may not be in Iraq or Afghanistan, but being away from your Family never

gets easy," Stephanie Jewell, said. "I've been married for eight months, so this whole separation thing is new to me. It's good to have a support network like this though."

The Family members were happy that the command and the family readiness group leaders created activities for everyone during the TDY.

"No matter if you're a spouse or a mother; it's never a joyous occasion when a loved one leaves," Tammie Jefferies said. "I'm going to miss my son, but I know he has a job to do. I also know that he will be safe doing his job."

Most of the Family members and spouses have completed their miles on tracks at various locations in the area or while hiking. The walkers are encouraged to walk where it's most suitable for them, and report their miles to their FRG leaders. Elizabeth Shelton, the daughter of a Soldier in 2-20 FA Regt., 41st Fires Bde., is completing her miles during her summer reserve officer training course program. So far, she has walked more than 100 miles.

The spouses and



Capt. Joseph Sagisi, Niceville, Fla. native, battalion communications officer, describes the progress made by the family members and spouses throughout the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade. So far the families have completed nearly 1,400 miles which puts them roughly passed the Pennsylvania border.

Family members will continue to step it out throughout the summer in support of their Soldiers until the group reaches their goal of 3,490 miles.



Shanna Bice, the spouse of Spc. William Bice, 67th Forward Support Company, completes 20 laps around the Brono Youth Center's track. The Walk to West Point allows the family members and spouses to get



Tammie Jefferies, mother to Sgt Timothy Jefferies, and Jeana Jefferies, spouse, add a few more miles to the combined total distance to help the group reach their goal of 3,490 miles.



# 'Boobie Brigade' hosts fundraiser

Story and photos by  
Spc. Dalinda Hanna  
41st Fires Brigade, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – The four ladies of the “boobie brigade” created a unique opportunity for food and fun as they hosted a fundraiser to support the three-day, 60-mile Susan G. Komen walk for the cure foundation at the Tilted Kilt, July 15.

The “boobie brigade” consists of Samantha Cookman, Marily Considine, Ruth Wheeler, and Amanda Hughey, each member pledged to raise \$2,300 to walk in the three-day event to raise money for breast cancer research and support programs. The walk is scheduled for November.

The Tilted Kilt, an eatery and pub located in Killeen, Texas donated 10 percent of their food



The four ladies of the “boobie brigade” (from left to right) Amanda Hughey, Samantha Cookman, Marily Considine, and Ruth Wheeler, assist a patron during their fundraiser at the Tilted Kilt, July 15. The “boobie brigade” pledged to raise \$2,300 each to support the Susan G. Komen walk for the cure foundation and walk in a three-day event scheduled in November.

profits from 8 p.m. until midnight to support the cause and the fight against cancer.

The live band, Fusion, played popular music from all genres to add to the atmosphere as the patrons ate and drank. A table was set up in the front of the restaurant filled with bracelets and key chains for sale, as well as different types of goodie-filled baskets for multiple silent auctions. The waitresses wore pink breast cancer awareness antennas and necklaces to show their support.

Melissa Doughty, a native of Austin, Texas, and a marketing manager for Tilted Kilt, said that the restaurant wanted to help such a great cause.

“It is important to help cure breast cancer because it is a serious concern that affects so many people. Everyone knows someone that it has affected and it’s a growing epidemic,” said Doughty. “We are happy to help



The ladies of the “boobie brigade” hosted a fundraiser at the Tilted Kilt to raise money for the Susan G. Komen walk for the cure foundation, July 15. The Tilted Kilt donated 10 percent of their food revenue from 8 p.m. through midnight to support the group and their cause.



FUND cont. from Page 7



Samantha Cookman, a native of Miles City, Mont., and a stay-at-home mother of two children, hands merchandise to a patron during the "boobie brigade" fundraiser held at the Tilted Kilt, July 15. The four ladies in the "boobie brigade" sold bracelets and key chains, along with baskets for a silent auction to support the Susan G. Komen walk for the cure foundation and walk in the three-day event scheduled in November.

the community in any way we can and will donate 10 percent of our food revenue to support them."

Staff Sgt. Korey Jones, a multiple launch rocket system crew member for 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, attended the event to support the cause and the "boobie brigade."

"We need to take care of ourselves and must be aware of causes to prevent diseases effectively," said Jones. "If we work together there will be a cure, but we need to support each other to achieve one."

Ruth Wheeler, from

Copperas Cove, Texas, and the family readiness group

stretching, and head out on their 60-mile walk.



The ladies with the "boobie brigade" created goodie baskets offered for silent auctions during the "boobie brigade" fundraiser held at the Tilted Kilt, July 15. The four ladies of the "boobie brigade" have pledged to raise \$2,300 each to support the Susan G. Komen walk for the cure foundation and walk in the 60-mile event scheduled for November.

leader for Battery C, 1st Bat., 21st FA Regt., said that everyone had a great time and that they have about half of the funds raised to reach their goal.

"This was the best fundraiser we had yet and we are a lot closer to our goal," said Wheeler. "It was wonderful seeing everyone who came out to support us and we appreciate it."

As the "boobie brigade" found success in their second fundraiser, these ladies are planning to have more exciting fundraisers to help reach their goal. With every passing day, they look forward to that day in November when they tie their laces, start



# *Throughout the Brigade*



## ***Rail Gunners***







# PROMOTIONS

**To PV2**

Lopez, David

**To PFC**

Britton, Daniel  
Deguzman, Hazy  
Haberkamp, James  
Kemp, Bradley  
Losavio, Sean  
Selman, John  
Selman, Michael  
Sorm, Dalysen  
Varela, Eric

**To SPC**

Anzures, Eduardo  
Belizaire, Mark  
Brown, Tamiquashenay  
Canale, Anthony  
Chavez, Jimmy

**To SPC**

Clayborn, Timothy  
Dasalla, Derrick  
Dotson, Donald  
Fischer, Michael  
Fray, David  
Gonzalez, Emily  
Jeffers, Joshua  
Karns, Johnie  
McDaniel Allan  
Meier, Amanda  
Pham, La  
Rodriguez, Nelson  
Stelt, Ryan  
Thomas, Vinson  
Tinsley, Kimiyashnee  
Underwood, Ladeatrin  
Witherington, Erik  
Whitney, Brian

**To SGT**

Bost, John  
Lufkin, Luke  
Pena, Christopher  
Salazar, Matthew

**To SSG**

Fournier, Timothy  
Lopez, Raul  
Wade, Myron

**To SFC**

Mullins, Joaquin

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